
Park Authority 2006 Spring/Summer Camp Inclusion Fact Sheet

All requests for ADA accommodations must be made 10 days in advance of your start date

To effectively accommodate your son/daughter, FCPA staff will provide the following ADA accommodations:

- Camp staff training: facilitation styles, communication methods, behavior redirection, modification/adaptation of activities, etc.
- Consultation from Specialists for the purposes of facilitating effective participation in programs, otherwise defined as helping to problem solve participation issues.
- Provide sign language interpreters.
- Ensure physical access to all sites and program offerings.
- Utilize the services of Inclusion Specialist during summer camp operations to help problem solve participation issues/needs/ADA accommodations.
- **One to one support is not provided.** Trained leisure coaches are available on a **limited basis** to help facilitate ADA accommodations ***and, depending on numbers and needs, may be responsible for transitioning multiple customers at a given location.*** Leisure coaching services are not available to provide one to one support for physical assistance such as balancing and ambulation. Parents are welcome to provide their own volunteer/staff for support with these needs, including personal care.

What is the staff to customer ratio?

- RecPac Targeted Inclusion Summer Camp Sites: 1 inclusion staff per 6 children with disabilities. General staff ratios remain 1:20 at these sites. Inclusion staff remain at these locations all 6 weeks of the camp.
- RECenter/RecPac/Park/Specialty/School Based Camp Sites: ADA accommodations are provided for these camps as well, however, requests for leisure coaches are based on need as determined by the ADA Coordinator and **availability (a limited resource)**. ***If a leisure Coach is provided to facilitate transition/participation, support is provided for a maximum of 3 of 5 days for 1 week camp sessions and 6 of 10 days for 2 week camps sessions.*** General staff ratios in these camps range from 1:10 to 1:15, and 1:8 to 1:10 for preschool camps.

Important Note: Depending on the overall needs of the customers with disabilities, the number of camps operating at the site, and the age group assignments, additional leisure coaches may be added to effectively support the inclusion experience.

When are leisure coaches withdrawn?

- With the exception of the RecPac targeted inclusion summer camp sites, if a customer with a disability demonstrates the ability to participate at a level of independence similar to that of his/her peers without disabilities, leisure coaching support is typically withdrawn. Participation levels are continually monitored to ensure this level of independence is maintained. The ADA Coordinator or leisure coach will discuss the withdrawal with the parent/guardian prior to ending services. The withdrawal of support is based on feedback received from general staff, leisure coach, parent, and Inclusion Specialist. An appeals process is available in the event the parent disagrees with the staff assessment for withdrawing support and a consensus cannot be reached.

How are children grouped during activities?

- RecPac Camps: children are typically grouped by grade level: 1st – 2nd graders, 3rd – 4th graders, etc.
- Park/Specialty/RECenter Camps: typically by age, 6-7, 7-8, 9-10, etc.

What is the environment like?

- Camp programs are ***generally very stimulating***: noisy and active with a variety of large and small group activities; structured and unstructured activities are planned throughout the day with a varying number of camp participants. Camps located in FCPA parks are subject to extended periods of time in “hot” weather conditions.
- Rec Inclusion Camp Sites provide quiet areas for individuals needing some time to “chill” and engage in briefly individualized activities such as reading and drawing. Parents are encouraged to bring their own resources if a “chill time” is conducive to your son/daughter’s needs. Other camp locations can accommodate the need for quiet time but isolation away from the camp is generally not possible (staffing and environmental limitations).

What can I expect from the Extended Care programs?

- **Extended Care Programs** are generally unstructured and primarily revolve around self directed activities. ADA accommodations can be provided, however, ***access to the services of a leisure coach will be extremely limited in this environment.*** Staff ratios are typically 1:18.

Will the staff give out medications or handle personal care or assist with feeding?

- Staff are provided with basic medication administration training and will administer medication or medical procedures with proper authorization from the Health Department and the family’s physician.
- Staff will not assist with personal care/hygiene needs or feeding. Staff can facilitate a bathroom schedule upon request and help unwrap or prepare foods.

What are the ages of the children at the camp?

RecPac:

- The age range of children are 6-13 (grades 1-6)
- Eligibility is based on school year requirements
- Your child must have completed kindergarten and through graduation of 6th grade

RECenter/Park/Specialty Camps:

- Eligibility varies with the camp beginning at three years of age.

How will other children accept my child (will they be nice/friendly/open)?

- Staff are trained to facilitate your child’s participation in group activities and to encourage/foster social relationships with other camp members.
- Generally speaking, customers with disabilities have very few issues developing appropriate friendships with other participants at the camp location. Staff can implement Sensitivity Awareness activities to help ensure appropriate interactions or eliminate inappropriate behaviors on the part of other campers.
- Staff promote the buddy system to help develop a cooperative group environment.

Is transportation provided to and from the program site?

- The FCPA does not provide transportation to or from the home. FCPS buses are utilized for most camp field trips. Lift vehicles are available upon request.

How will ADA Accommodations be determined?

- Based on information gathered from the phone interview, the Pre-inclusion Survey, and the Professional Information Sharing Form (if completed in time by the customer's teacher), staff will develop a written Accommodation Plan that details specific needs and strategies.

Where are the locations of the camps?

- RecPac targeted inclusion sites are typically located at various schools throughout Fairfax County; and include Garfield, Laurel Ridge, Woodburn, Hunters Woods, and Poplar Tree Elementary schools. RECenter locations are Oak Marr, Cub Run, Audrey Moore/Wakefield, Spring Hill, Providence, Mt. Vernon, Lee District and South Run.
- Specialty & Park camps vary depending on camp selection.
- See the Parktakes magazine or visit our web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks>

How do I make arrangements for enrollment and accommodations?

- If ADA accommodations are required you must submit the application and request the accommodations 10 days in advance of the start date.
- Request formal accommodations after registering for the camp by contacting the ADA Coordinator directly at (703) 324- 8563, TTY at (703) 803-3354.
- Upon receipt, complete and return the Pre-inclusion Survey.
- Your child's application request and intake information are reviewed.
- You will be contacted prior to the start of the camp to review the Accommodation Plan.

FCPA Code of Conduct

All customers enrolled in Fairfax County Park Authority programs agree to meet and sign the rules *of conduct* document. ADA accommodations provide customers with disabilities support to help meet the rules of conduct. The ADA Coordinator reserves the right, on behalf of the agency, to terminate participation in the program if the customer cannot follow the rules of conduct. Every effort will be made to provide appropriate accommodations before terminating participation.

- Must be able to maintain personal care without support of FCPA staff or FCPA volunteers
- Stay with his/her assigned group
- Respect others (listening & following directions; using appropriate language; keeping hands and feet to self)
- Maintain self control (anger management)
- Meet the prerequisite skills for the program (if required for participation)

Additional questions/concerns about inclusion?

- Contact Gary Logue, ADA Coordinator, at (703) 324- 8563, TTY at (703) 803-3354

Need more structured summer camp opportunities (contained camps)?

Contact Therapeutic Recreation Services at (703) 324-5532, TTY at (703) 222-9693